

VT-UDEP ECONOMICS LAB: EXPERIMENT-DRIVEN POLICY MAKING IN PERU

4 credits, 4 weeks (July 2018)



Discover real and lasting solutions to complex, global problems alongside communities in northern Peru and leading behavioral and experimental economists. Gain critical thinking, cross-cultural, and career skills through hands-on lab and field experience. Engage in transdisciplinary, experiential learning while immersed in Peruvian culture

Field of study/interest:

- Economics; Agricultural & Applied Economics
- Political Science; Philosophy
- International Studies; Public Policy; Rural Development
- Latin American Studies; Spanish Language & Peruvian Culture
- Environmental Science; Natural Resources; Sustainability
- Public Health
- Industrial Systems Engineering; Engineering Education
- Urban Affairs & Planning

**Apply online at <http://sa.globaleducation.vt.edu/?go=EconLabPeru>
by April 1, 2018. Spaces are limited.**

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all majors. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Contact faculty program leader for exceptions.

COSTS

Program costs include:

- Program Fee of \$1,700 (which includes international airfare to Peru, airfare from Lima to Piura, ground transportation, excursions, lectures, field components, CISI insurance, most meals, and hotels/homestay). Accepted students receive a \$1,900 subsidy on the original program fee costs of \$3600.
- 4 credits of VT tuition and fees (In-State: \$1,459.00; Out-of-State: \$3,734.00)
- Other expenses might include passport, immunization, telecommunications, housing in Blacksburg or personal expenses, and some meals.

A deposit of \$1,000 will be due following acceptance.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Western Union Foundation Scholarships

Application Deadline: April 30, 2018

WU Scholars - a global scholarship program from the Western Union Foundation. Scholars will receive a \$2,500 USD Scholarship. Students must be seeking an undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) or business/entrepreneurship. [For more information.](#)

CONTACT

For more information, contact Rachel Fitzgerald in the Global Education Office at rfitz@vt.edu.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The VT-UDEP Economics Lab presents a unique learning experience to Virginia Tech (VT) students in collaboration with the Department of Economics at Universidad de Piura (UDEP) in Lima and Piura, Peru. The program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to understand how behavioral economics can help improve the design of public policy in the areas of environment, resources management, health, technology adoption and access to education in rural communities across the world.

VT students will have the opportunity to learn alongside Peruvians from the Universidad de Piura. The program will begin with an online module followed by 10 days at VT's Experimental Lab in Blacksburg. The cohort will then travel to Peru for a two-day policy workshop in Lima concluding with a week of field experiments with local communities in Northern Peru.

Program objectives:

- Understand how lab experiments and field experiments can help policy makers rigorously evaluate public policy, and use the evaluation results to improve policy design.
- Increase awareness about the critical issues and challenges relating to environmental conservation, resource management and education access in rural communities in developing countries.
- Motivate students to propose new policies or policy innovations that can improve the well-being of individuals in countries around the world.
- Gain exposure to Spanish language and learn about Peruvian culture and history.
- Acknowledge and reflect upon one's identity as a global citizen. Explore cross-cultural perspectives. Identify behaviors, thoughts, and perspectives that both distinguish communities, regions, countries, and cultures from one another and connect them.

ACADEMICS

Participants will earn a total of 4 semester hours of Virginia Tech academic credit. 1 credit in Language and Culture and 3 credits for ECON 3954.

PROFESSORS

Sudipta Sarangi, Professor and Department Head, Economics

Sheryl Ball, Professor and Associate Department Head, Economics

Alec Smith, Assistant Professor, Economics

Marcos Agurto, Departamento de Economía, Universidad de Piura

